(b) Yearwise details are given below:—

Period	No. of recruitment made
1992	43
1993	360
1994	173
1995	45
1996	365
1997	64
TOTAL	1,050

(c) No, Sir.

Women workers in coal mines

4294. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of women workers in coal mines has declined during the last ten years;

(b) if so, the details of such decline year by year;

(c) the reasons for such a decline;

(d) whether the Coal India Limited has adopted a policy to discourage employment of women in coal mines; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of women workers, year-wise, are as under:—

Year (as on 1st April)	No. of female workers
1988	45,657
1989	44,522
1990	43,879
1991	43,840
1992	43,672
1993	43,896
1994	44,123
1995	43,128
1996	37,438
1997	37,049
1998	36,316

(c) The main reasons for decline in women workers in coal mines are as under :—

1. Superannuation;
2. Female employees generally prefer their eligible sons to be employed in their places. Such employment was permitted under Speical Female Voluntary Retirement Scheme which had been introduced in the subsidiary companies for a limited period;
3. On the death or permanent disability during employment of a female employee, normally male dependent is nominated for employment;
4. The female employees also opt for voluntary retirement under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply given to (d) above.

चीन द्वारा हार्ड कोक का पाटन

4295. **श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र** : क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि चीन द्वारा हार्ड कोक के पाटन (डंपिंग) के करण मै॰ भारत केकिंग कोल लिमिटेड पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इससे कितनी हार्ड कोक खुली खानें बन्द हुई हैं और बी॰सी॰सी॰एल॰ को कितनी हानि हुई है, और

(ग) सरकार द्वारा कोक के पाटन (डंपिंग) को रोकने के लिए क्य कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दिलीप राय): (क) जी, हां। भा॰को॰को॰लि॰ द्वारा उत्पादित कोक की मांग घट गई थी जिसके परिणाम स्वरूप अपने बहुत अधिक स्टॉक के जमा न होने देने के लिए कंपनी को अपने उत्पादन में कटौती करनी पड़ी।

(ख) अप्रैल, 1995 से मार्च, 1996 तक भा॰को॰को॰लि॰ में चरणबद्ध रूप में 68 बीहाइव ओवन बंद करने पड़े। इससे उत्पादन की हानि, लगभग 1900 टन प्रति माह होगी।

(ग) वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में पदनामित प्राधिकारी के निष्कर्षों एवं सिफारिशों के अनुसरण में चीन में उत्पादित अथवा उनके द्वारा निर्यात किए गए धातुकर्मीय केक के

सभी आयातों पर सरकार द्वारा 1800 रु० प्रति टन की दर से अनंतिम रूप से एंटी-डंपिंग शुल्क लगाया गया है।

Corruption in STC

4296. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI is looking into allegations of corruption in urea and edible-oil import deals undertaken by STC;

(b) if so, the names of senior officials of STC under CBI and vigilance inquiries in these deals;

(c) whether it is a fact that one such senior official of STC is being considered for higher appointment in STC; and

(d) what steps are contemplated by Government to ensure that such officials are not posted on such high posts?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (d) In 1996, based on a complaint alleging irregularities in the import of edible oil by senior officials of STC and undue favour shown to a private company in the imports, CBI is investigating the matter. Further action in the matter will be taken after the availability of the CBI's findings.

In 1997, STC's role in urea deal was scrutinized by CBI who after discreet verification have closed the case.

No official found guilty has been posted to senior position in STC.

Patent Right of Basmati Rice with W.T.O.

4297. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether patent for Basmati rice have been granted by the US authorities;

(b) if so, whether the issue is being taken up by Government with W.T.O.;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) A patent under the title "Basmati Lines and grains" has been granted to Rice Tec. Inc. Alvin Texas on 2.9.97 by the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, The United States of America.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Patents are granted by respective Governments under their Patents laws. Whenever information in received about patents being taken on certain products which are of commercial interest to India and which in our views do not satisfy the criteria of patentability, steps are taken to assess whether the grant of can be challenged. After sufficient material is gathered, steps are taken for filing a petition for re-examination and ultimate revocation of patent in that country.

Dumping of Waste Material

4298. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while import tariffs have declined from 87% in 1990-91 to 20.3% in 1997-98 and there has been large-scale dumping by way of import of waste and unwanted material over these years; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to prevent such dumping?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) The general peak rate of import duty was more than 300% in 1990 whereas the same have been brought down to 40% in 1997. The mechanism of Safeguard and Anti Dumping are available to the affected industries under the current policy to prevent dumping.

Merger of MITCO with MMTC

4299. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether MITCO has been merged in MMTC with all its workers and staff;

(b) the number of workers of MITCO at the time of merger;

(c) the status of MITCO workers and staff in MMTC; and

(d) whether they are getting same scale of pay, the facts in details?